

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF MAYOR CURTISTENE
SMITH McCOWAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Mrs. Curtistene Smith McCowan, Mayor of DeSoto, Texas, who passed away on October 28, 2020.

Mayor McCowan's experience in public service was commendable, and the extension of her influence cannot be measured by the positions she held—of which there were many. Among her laudable achievements included Mayor of DeSoto, DeSoto City Councilmember, President of the DeSoto Economic Development Cooperation Board of Directors, Founder and President of the Concerned DeSoto Citizens nonprofit, and Chair of the Trustee Board at the Kirkwood Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, just to name a few. Even in the 21st Century, Mrs. McCowan was the first African American elected to public office in DeSoto and the first woman to hold the office of mayor.

In our countless meetings together, Mayor McCowan and I always left with a greater understanding and appreciation for one another's perspectives. We shared the same vision for the future of DeSoto where its citizens and institutions flourished under her fervent leadership. During her tenure, Mayor McCowan made significant strides towards access for quality education, fiscal accountability, and the economic development of the city, among several other initiatives.

Mayor McCowan saw adversity as simply a bump in the road—a necessary hurdle on the way to success. She met her challenges, both personal and public, with a fierce, yet gentle tenacity. When announcing her cancer diagnosis during a city council meeting in early October 2020, she made it clear that her priority would remain the wellbeing of DeSoto and its residents during these trying times. "I've always said that when we work together, there's nothing that we can't accomplish," she remarked during that meeting. It is in that spirit that we carry on her legacy, so that generations to come may feel the significant impact of her life.

Mayor McCowan is survived by her husband of 54 years, Leon R. McCowan, two sons, and three grandchildren. Also among her progeny include the students of Curtistene S. McCowan Middle School and the many of us she inspired along the way.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Texas Congressional Delegation and this legislative body, I compassionately extend my sincere condolences to the McCowan family, friends and loved ones. We know that DeSoto is a better place because of the well-lived life of Mayor Curtistene Smith McCowan.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF JESSIE WOLF

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Jessie Wolf, former Sheriff of Tyler County, professional football player, and servant of his community.

Jessie was born on March 4, 1952, to John and Annie Mae Wolf in Warren, Texas. He was a long-time resident of Tyler County and graduated from Warren High School in 1970. For nearly three decades, Jessie ensured the safety of more than 21,000 residents of Tyler County serving as a law enforcement officer. He is remembered by many for his infectious personality and was loved deeply by the community of which he worked tirelessly to keep safe after an impressive career playing professional football.

Jessie played college football and was a weight thrower for the track and field team at Prairie View A&M University. Following his college graduation, he was recruited by the World Football League where he played for the Birmingham Vulcans. A year later, he was drafted into the National Football League (NFL) by the Miami Dolphins and helped lead the team to a Super Bowl championship in 1974. After his time with the Dolphins, he went on to play for two other NFL teams, the Washington Redskins and the Baltimore Colts. In 2014, Jessie was inducted into his alma mater's Sport's Hall of Fame.

Following his departure from the NFL, Jessie moved back to Tyler County and began his career in law enforcement. After many years of service, he assumed the position of Chief Deputy in the early 2000s and stepped in as acting Sheriff for Tyler County in 2005. Jessie made history as the first African American sheriff of Tyler County and held that position until his retirement.

He married the love of his life, Mary Cravens Wolf, in 2007, and they spent many wonderful years together. Throughout his time in law enforcement, Jessie made sure that the safety and wellbeing of the community he swore to protect remained top priority. In addition to his love of football and police service, Jessie enjoyed spending time with his family and his beloved six grandchildren.

Jessie is preceded in death by his parents, John Wolf Sr. and Annie Mae Deason Wolf; sister Maggie Lena Wolf Foster; and two brothers, James and Joe Wolf. He is survived by his wife, Margie Wolf; two daughters, Denise Wright and Shannon Dugas; brother Elray Wolf; two sisters, Beatrice Williams and Verdine Wolf; and six grandchildren, DeAndre Bell, Kayla Bell, Derrick Wright, Erik Wright, Isaiah Wright, and Rashaad Young.

Madam Speaker, I thank Jessie Wolf for his faithful service to our community and county; and my heartfelt prayers remain with his family and friends during this difficult time.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS MCCARTHY,
ABINGTON AND WHITMAN MA
VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2020

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Thomas McCarthy, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Towns of Abington and Whitman, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the United States of America.

The son of James and Jane McCarthy of Abington, Tom was born on May 11, 1958. He was raised on Plymouth Street in Abington, and he attended South Shore Vocational Tech High School in Hanover. He attended Southern Washington University, earning a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice in 1979.

Tom served in the United States Marine Corps for thirty years (1976 to 2006), retiring with the rank of Sergeant Major. Over the course of his service in the United States Marine Corps, Tom attended the Military Police Academy and was assigned to the Military Police for twenty-six years. Upon his retirement, he returned to Abington.

Tom then worked for A-Prime Steel, a specialty steel company from 2007 to 2008 in addition to driving for Dunbar Armor, a private security company. Subsequently, Tom worked at Sears as a sales associate and then as an assistant manager in the automobile service department. In 2012, Tom began his service as the part-time Veterans' Service Officer for the towns of Abington and Whitman. He was promoted to Director of Veterans' Services in 2017. Tom is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 119, in Whitman, where he served as Post Commander from 2011 to 2016.

Madam Speaker, Tom is known for his compassion, his kind smile, his quick sense of humor, his storytelling, and his affection for Dunkin' Donuts Iced Coffee. He is an avid freshwater fisherman and has participated in many firearms shooting competitions over the years. He has had the good fortune to be married to Jenny for forty-one years.

His passionate advocacy for veterans set an example to all who worked with him, and I extend my sincere congratulations and appreciation to him upon his retirement. It is my distinct honor to join with Tom McCarthy's family, friends and contemporaries to thank him for his service to the United States and to the veterans of Abington and Whitman, Massachusetts.

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